



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MARCH 14, 2006 WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Finley at 7:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jo-Ann Adams, Les Among, Tom Brower, Laurence Connell, Ray Gruntz, Jim Poole, Mary Simpson, Louis Erteschik, Bob Finley, Walt Flood, Jack Myers, Bert Benevinto, David Chen, Jeff Merz, Mike Peters.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Apaka, John Kaimi.

GUESTS: Lori Wingard (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Leonard Micolai, George Lemewka, Emily Reed, Mary Gowing, Sue Soberich; Acting Lt. Glen Tomasu, Sgt. Wes Sakamoto, Officer Jason Pistor (HPD), Corey Dillman, Gary Hold, Capt. Norbert Pokini (HFD), Jim Baldwin, Jack Baldwin, Laura Millman, Daniel Chun (Governor's Office), Helen Carroll, Peter Schali (Hilton), Senator Gordon Trimble, Joan Hagawa (Waikiki Community Center), Napet Letachai (UH), Scot Muraoka (Board of Water Supply), Rick Egged (Waikiki Improvement Association), Carol Sword, Keith Rollman (Mayor's Office), Tricia Ku (Representative Anne Stevens' Office), Bob Farrell, Debra Stranbridge, Sean Smith, Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

ESTABLISH A QUORUM: A quorum was present.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Finley announced the following:

1. Condolences were expressed on the death of Senator Daniel Inoyue's wife and the victims of the flood on Kauai.
2. Board members Apaka and Kaiki contacted him that they were unable to attend the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chen reported for the month of February the Operating Account's previous balance was \$898.95, the current month's expenses were \$159.22, expenses to date were \$780.27, leaving a balance of \$739.73; for the Publicity Account, the previous balance was \$1907.68, the previous total expenses were \$1033.32, the current month's expenses were \$208.33 for video taping, the expenses to date were \$1241.65, leaving a balance of \$1695.35; for the Refreshment Account, there were no expenses to date leaving a balance of \$120.00.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED:

REQUEST TO HAVE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION MOVE ITS MEETING DATE TO DECONFLICT WITH THE WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD MEETING – Gruntz moved and Benevinto seconded that the Waikiki Neighborhood Board No. 9 requests the City and County of Honolulu Neighborhood Commission, to address the conflict of its meeting date of the second Tuesday of each month, to either the first or last Monday of the month, or any day of the month, as it sees fit.

Gruntz noted because the Neighborhood Commission's monthly meeting is the same day as this Board's meeting, the Board's members are unable to attend the Commission meeting. The dates suggested are open for use when there are no other Neighborhood Board meetings, and availability of Farrell to video tape the meetings.

Benevinto questioned whether or not the Neighborhood Commission is willing to change its meeting date.

Brower suggested the Board change its meeting date.



Erteschik supported the motion, noting the Board is unable to change its meeting date and having the Neighborhood Commission change its meeting date to allow this Board to attend the Neighborhood Commission meetings.

Poole and Benevinto suggested comments on a letter to the Neighborhood Commission.

The motion carried unanimously.

7:12 p.m.

2121 KUHIO AVENUE PROJECT – This item will be placed on the May agenda.

HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY ON KALAKAUA AVENUE – Suggestions were made on the holding of a Halloween block party on Kalakaua Avenue. Follow up will be done with Rick Egged, Waikiki Improvement Association.

CANDIDATES NIGHT – Chair Finley suggested holding a candidates night for all area offices, will be held at the Board's August meeting, 8:00 p.m. There were no objections.

BACK UP BEEPER BILL – Senator Lorraine Inouye was not present to discuss a bill that would allow a vehicle's back up beeper to be disconnected during certain night time hours if the vehicle is being guided by a responsible person.

CITY AGENCIES:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Capt. Pokini reported the following:

1. Last month the station responded to: 2 structure, 2 rubbish fires and 4 miscellaneous fires, 92 medical emergencies, 1 search and rescue and 10 false alarms/system malfunctions. There were no major or unusual incidents.
2. Fire Safety Tip: Brush fires cause great damage in our communities and use resources that could be better utilized elsewhere. Be responsible and dispose of all fires properly. Even small sources of fire, such as cigarettes and charcoal, can cause immense destruction. Work together with your community to make it safer. Make and maintain a 30-foot wide firebreak by clearing the vegetation surrounding all structures. Report and remove hazards. Communicate with each other. Formulate plans for yourself, your family, and your neighborhood in case of emergencies.

Now is the time to prepare for brush fire season. If you are interested in creating a safe space around your home, street, or community, you may contact Denise Laitmen of Firewise at 281-3497 or www.firewise.org.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Grutz suggested one of the National Guard's C-130 being replaced by C-17s, be retained and used for fighting brush fires as it has a greater water drop capability compared to the helicopters currently being used. He suggested the fire department work with the Governor on this matter. Capt. Pokini will follow up.
2. A resident reported the fire department's use of sirens at night can be disturbing, and questioned if the use of sirens was necessary during late night and early morning hours. Capt. Pokini noted that they do use their discretion on using the sirens during these hours.
3. A resident expressed concern about the storage of items in a walkway of a youth hostel such that it may create a blocking hazard in an emergency. Capt. Pokini invited the resident to come to the Waikiki Station to discuss the matter further, noting they can check to see if a hazard exists, if one does, the Fire Prevention Bureau can take further action.

7:22 p.m.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Officer Pistor, Waikiki Station, reported statistics for last month included: 10 sex offenses, 13 robberies, 36 burglaries, 151 thefts, 45 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles, 12 vehicle thefts, 50 assaults, 13 drug cases, 116 motor vehicle collisions, 179 parking violations, 392 miscellaneous service calls.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz expressed his opinion that the shift from the three, twelve-hour shifts, to the five, eight-hour shifts, would be more financially beneficial to officers. The eight hour shifts will also result in officers' health, they will live longer in retirement.
2. Officer Pistor noted in response to Adams' noting that recent high profile crimes involved the use of stolen cars, the department has detectives assigned to stolen car cases and officers routinely check license numbers of cars to see if they are stolen.
3. Debra Roberts noted receiving a citation from police for rollerblading on Ala Wai Boulevard. She acknowledged knowing it is illegal, but believes it should be allowed in the bike lane. Police suggested she use Date Street, but the road's poor surface and lighting conditions do not make this an option. She also questioned the fine of \$50 while the fine for illegally skateboarding is only \$40, and suggested the law be changed. Wingard, from Councilmember Djou's Office, will follow up with Roberts.
4. In response to Myers' question about drug statistics being so low, the Fourth Watch and plain clothes officers, have been addressing the problem, including doing undercover work to reduce the problem. Tips can anonymously be called into 911 has been done, or via their website.
5. Peters reported illegal parking continues to be a problem on the Tusitalia Street extension despite parking restriction signs being replaced.
6. In response to Mary Cowing about whether there is a law relating to loud motorcycles, there is a law, and violators are subject to traffic stops. Follow up will be done.

Acting Tomasu, Sgt. Sakamoto, and Officer Pistor were thanked for attending the meeting.

7:35 p.m.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS) – Scott Muraoka reported the following:

1. There were no water main breaks in this area last month.
2. Detect-A-Leak Week was March 5 – 11. You can check for leaks by turning off all devices that use water, then checking your water meter to see if it is moving, if it is, you have a leak. The toilet can be checked for a leak by putting a dye tablet in the tank, then if the color appears in the bowl, you have a leak. Check the flapper valve to see if it needs replacement.
3. In response to a question from last month's meeting, the City Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) and other government agencies are responsible for long range planning and growth. The Board of Water Supply is required to ensure that adequate supplies of water are available to meet the direction and growth of the community as declared by these agencies.

Gruntz noted that the BWS has never turned down a request by DPP to supply water.

In response to questions from Erteschik and Adams, a number of factors determine how much water there is and where it comes from, but that there is an estimated 10 – 15 year supply available, based

on projections, but it could last much longer. The State Water Commission, not BWS, authorizes the use of water from ground water sources.

Brower supported a study of the carrying capacity of Waikiki.

Muraoka was thanked for attending the meeting.

7:47 p.m.

CITIZENS' ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LOUD PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM ON TROLLEYS – A resident noted some open trolleys have excessively loud public address systems which can be heard for blocks.

In response to a question from Merz, the trolley companies have been called, but there has been no reduction in the sound level. Merz also suggested contacting the State Department of Health. Chair Finley will follow up.

PROBLEMS WITH RESTAURANT EXHAUST SYSTEM – Jim and Jack Baldwin, residents of Foster Tower, expressed frustration with being unable to resolve to their satisfaction, health and other problems they have been experiencing from the burger restaurant on the first floor changing its kitchen exhaust to vent at the second story level of the condominiums. Wingard, from Councilmember Djou's Office, will follow up with the State Department of Health, State Office of Environmental Quality Control, and City Department of Planning and Permitting.

Chair Finley noted that the Neighborhood Commission has advised him that the Board should not become involved in this matter, a dispute between private parties – residents and the restaurant.

Errteschik noted that the Kalia had a similar problem and the Department of Health (DOH) addressed the matter. The Baldwins reported DOH has been contacted, with no resolution.

Gruntz suggested calling police so the complaints are on the record.

NOISE FROM MOTORCYCLES – Resident Gary Holt also complained about noise from motorcycles and mopeds.

Peters noted that motorcycle riders claim the noise is necessary for safety as it alerts other drivers to their presence. He also suggested that laws addressing noise problems need to be addressed one at a time. Currently there is a bill in the legislature to shut off vehicle back up beepers at night under certain conditions. Changing the law to address noise problems with motorcycles, mopeds, car stereos, can similarly be addressed.

Myers noted that this should be part of the carrying capacity of Waikiki study.

A resident noted the organization Citizens Against Noise, worked on matters like this.

Benevinto suggested the formation of a committee to address this matter.

Chair Finley noted the lobby the motorcycle riders have that bring large numbers out whenever there is an effort to try and regulate motorcycles.

Sword and Brower provided additional comments.

TRASH CLEAN UP – A resident expressed thanks for the clean up of trash on Ohua Street.

8:15 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

MAYOR'S OFFICE - Keith Rollman, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. The Department of Environmental Services was responsible for the clean up of trash on Ohua Street.
2. He will follow up with the City Department of Planning and Permitting and the State Department of Health, regarding the Baldwin's complaint about problems with the restaurant's exhaust fumes to determine which agency has enforcement authority.
3. In response to a request from last month's meeting, mechanical cleaning of Hobron Lane and Kaioo Drive is scheduled once a week as resources permit.
4. In response to a request from last month's meeting, the Board of Water Supply removed the temporary hydrant meter on Ohua Avenue.
5. In response to a question from last month's meeting, bulky item pickup is made every Saturday in Waikiki.
6. Regarding a question about the new parking restrictions on Ala Wai Boulevard, HPD reports that on the first day of enforcement, 80 vehicles were cited, 23 were towed, and no stolen or abandoned vehicles were found.
7. Informational materials on: a) Curbside Green Waste Recycling, b) Recycling Support for Schools, c) Expand Community Recycling Bins, d) map and schedule for bulky item pick up, were made available for interested persons.

Bill 72, relating to curbside recycling, was signed in to law by the Mayor.

8. Further checking is being done on a request to modify the bicycle lane markings on Ala Wai Boulevard.
9. In response to a question about the parking restrictions on Ala Wai Boulevard, and tow truck drivers waiting for persons who park before the restrictions end, the Division of Road Maintenance does not recommend changes to the hours or frequency of cleaning.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to a question from Erteschik, a bill needs to be passed by the legislature to clarify whether the State or the City, collects the revenue from the general excise tax increase to fund the mass transit system.
2. A resident noted condominiums are having problems with establishing their own recycling programs, such as not being able to find contractors to pick up collected materials. Rollman noted additional programs are in the works.
3. Benevinto noted the on-line motor vehicle registration system does not have a means to submit proof of safety inspection.
4. In response to a question from a resident, Rollman reported that the twice a week trash collection schedule will likely remain even with the implementation of the curbside recycling, it is unlikely there would be a change to once a week collection.
5. Gruntz noted property tax relief measures passed increased deductions for persons under age 70, but there were no increases for persons over age 70. Rollman noted the Mayor has proposed a \$40 million rebate to taxpayers and creation of a new "homeowners" category.
6. In response to a question, there is no new information on restoring the E-Bus route. It was suggested interested persons petition the City Council to restore the route.

8:30 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU – Wingard, from Councilmember Djou's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. A bill in the legislature relating to street racing and impounding vehicles of violators, is not still alive, it did not survive crossover.
2. The Mayor signed Bill 72, relating to curbside recycling into law. The bill requires collection of green waste and one of: glass containers, newspapers, plastic containers, or food waste, by July 2007; and two of the remaining three items by July 2008.
3. The City Auditor's report says the City has no comprehensive strategic plan to manage all of its debt and that the debt service is 12.7 percent of the budget and projected to grow to 22 percent by 2010.
4. The Council is reviewing the Administration's budget, totaling \$2.1 billion for the next fiscal year.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz suggested the City shop at big box stores to save money as he has observed State agencies doing this.
2. In response to a question, Wingard noted Councilmember Djou supports restoration of the E-Bus route.

8:36 p.m.

SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE – Senator Trimble reported the following:

1. The back up beeper bill passed the Senate and crossed over to the House and will be heard in committee hearing tomorrow. Last year the bill passed the full Senate, then the House Transportation Committee, but did not pass out of the Judiciary Committee.
2. A bill of interest, Senate Bill 2385, relating to red light cameras, would have the cameras operated by police departments.
3. The budget includes various tax credit bills have been introduced, including for persons providing health care services to the elderly, and teachers, and HGEA pay raises.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz noted the desire to see HGEA employee productivity increases as part of pay raises.
2. Senator Trimble noted he foresees taxpayers not getting anything back from the budget surplus.
3. Myers noted there are too many duplicate bills, and Senator Trimble noted part of the problem is the way the legislature is organized, such that committee chairs have too much power.

8:46 p.m.

REPRESENTATIVE ANNE STEVENS – Tricia Ku, from Representative Stevens' Office, reported the following:

1. Representative Stevens thanked Board member and her staff member Les Among, for his musical performance at the invocation to open the February 21 session.
2. Last month's Aloha Aina Earth Day clean up was a success. Thanks were extended to everyone for participating. This Saturday there will be a clean up project at Ala Wai Harbor, 8:00 – 11:30 a.m.

3. Persons confused by Medicare Part D prescription drug programs may want to speak with their pharmacists for more information.
4. Work is being done on a test of pedestrian safety measure to have persons wanting to cross a street wave flags as is done in other countries.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz noted that using flags would give persons a false sense of security and most likely would be stolen.
2. Other comments suggested carrying flashing red lights.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO - A written report was received.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – A written report was received. Marsha Weinert was unable to attend due to working on responses to the flooding problem on Kauai.

WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION – No report.

PRESENTATIONS:

HILTON PROJECT UPDATES – Peter Schali, from Hilton Hotels, reported the redevelopment plan was approved in 2002, an Environmental Assessment was done, and forwarded to the City Department of Planning and Permitting for review in August 2005. Permits, including a City Special Management Area permit, and Park Dedication Requirement, are being processed.

Schali reported that the Duke Kahanamoku Lagoon is a public facility, and currently has two intake pipes providing natural inflow of water and pumps to provide outflow of water into the Ala Wai Boat Harbor. The improvement project will use seven wells to provide inflow of water at 15,000 per minute at lagoon's island waterfall, increasing the current water exchange rate. Pumps will provide outflow into two points in the Ala Wai Boat Harbor to help flush the harbor. A liner will be installed on the bottom of the lagoon, sealing in the sediment. The project also includes a pedestrian walkway with benches, water fountains and landscaping with 80 palm trees. If all goes as planned construction could begin in September and take 11 - 12 months to complete.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz noted that requirements imposed by the City, a) clean up of the lagoon, including pollution from a trash compactor, b) traffic improvements, c) beach access directional signs, d) new sidewalks, e) new restrooms; do not benefit the public, but does benefit Hilton Hotels' guests.
2. Construction of the new time-share tower will begin in April or May and be completed in December 2008, and includes a pool for the tower.

Among expressed concern about runoff during the construction, and Schali reported a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits has been received.

3. The City required traffic improvements, including installing intersection at Dewey Lane and Ala Moana Boulevard, between Kalia Road and Hobron Lane. Install traffic four-way traffic light, remove median on Ala Moana Boulevard from Prince Hotel to Kalia Road to add a new lane for a right turn lane to Kalia Road, with reduced sized lanes from 12 to 10 feet, expand left-turn lane Diamond Head bound from Hobrton lane back toward Ala Moana Shopping Center by 200 feet, expand ewa bound on Ala Moana left- turn lane to Kalia Road expand by 200 feet.
4. Myers opposed the new traffic light installation, saying it will not benefit traffic flow.

5. In response to a question from Myers, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has control over vendors/concessions at the lagoon.
6. In response to Brower, the new time-share tower will have 355 units and 125 parking spaces. Traffic impacts should be minimal, and no buses will be using Dewey Lane.
7. Peters noted he supports the beach access directional signs and new sidewalks. He also suggested a site tour, and one will be arranged.
8. In response to Adams, the narrowing of traffic lanes to create a new lane, will not affect the main entrance to the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Adams expressed concern that the traffic light will increase problems and Kalia Road should be opened.
9. In response to Erteschik, the cost of removing the lagoon's sediment and installing the new liner, is about the same.
10. A resident expressed concern about the pool for the time-share tower having a slide as it could be a safety hazard.
11. In response to Gruntz, storm drains do drain into the lagoon, 70 percent of Hilton rain water runs into the lagoon and pumped into the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.
12. In response to a resident, Dewey Lane improvements include a sidewalk.

Among left at 9:33 p.m., during the above portion of the meeting.

9:40 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATIVE – Erteschik distributed copies of his report which includes a list of bills of interest in the legislature in the areas of: sunshine law, noise, eminent domain, Kakaako, eviction proceedings for tenants who possess drugs, restrictions on time shares via zoning, tax incentives for leasehold conversion, creating a special fund for repairs of small boat harbors, disaster preparedness legislation, notification of Neighborhood Boards of halfway or drug rehabilitation homes.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES – The following correction was made:

Page 6, under Councilmember Charles Djou, question no. 3 should read "...to follow up as to the carrying capacity study..."

Flood moved and Gruntz seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chair Finley reported the following:

1. Notice has been received of liquor license applications for: a) transfer of business and Dispenser General License for Waikiki Beachcomber Hotel, and b) application for a Dispenser General License by Design Club, Inc. 2119 Lauula Street.
2. Correspondence from E Noa Tours offering rides on its buses for the same rate as TheBus.
3. 2121 Kuhio Avenue project update at the May meeting.
4. Aloha Aina Earth Day clean up project on February 25 was a success.

5. A project to repave Ala Wai Boulevard is in the City Administration's budget, and will begin this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A resident announced that a Senate bill relating to reforms to county liquor commissions, has crossed over to the House for further review.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant